

BEFORE THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
BUREAU OF VOCATIONAL NURSING AND PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. PT-2004-1070

SANDRA JEAN WATKINS  
26949 Stratford Street  
Highland, CA 92346

Psychiatric Technician License No.  
PT 29751

Respondent.

DECISION

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by the  
Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs<sup>1</sup> as the final Decision in the above-entitled matter.

This Decision shall become effective on January 29, 2009.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 10th day of December 2008.

*P. J. Harris*

PATRICIA HARRIS

Deputy Director, Board/Bureau Support  
Department of Consumer Affairs

<sup>1</sup>Pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 101.1(b), on July 1, 2008, the director became vested with the duties, powers, purposes, responsibilities, and jurisdiction of the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians.

1 EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General  
of the State of California  
2 KAREN B. CHAPPELLE  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
3 BRIAN G. WALSH, State Bar No. 207621  
Deputy Attorney General  
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5 Telephone: (213) 897-2535  
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6

7 Attorneys for Complainant

8 **BEFORE THE**  
9 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**  
10 **FOR THE BUREAU OF VOCATIONAL NURSING AND PSYCHIATRIC**  
11 **TECHNICIANS**  
12 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

13 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

14 SANDRA JEAN WATKINS  
aka Sandra Jean Williams  
26949 Stratford Street  
Highland, CA 92346  
Psychiatric Technician License No. PT 29751

15 Respondent.

Case No. PT-2004-1070

OAH No. 2008080074

**STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND  
DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

17 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the  
18 above-entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:

19 **PARTIES**

20 1. Teresa Bello-Jones, J.D., M.S.N., R.N. (Complainant) is the Executive  
21 Officer of the Bureau of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians. She brought this  
22 action solely in her official capacity and is represented in this matter by Edmund G. Brown Jr.,  
23 Attorney General of the State of California, by Brian G. Walsh, Deputy Attorney General.

24 2. Respondent Sandra Jean Williams (Respondent) is represented in this  
25 proceeding by attorney Steven B. Bassoff, Esq., whose address is 1220 S Street, Suite 1000  
26 Sacramento, California 95811-7138.

27 3. On or about May 2, 1996, the Bureau of Vocational Nursing and  
28 Psychiatric Technicians (Bureau) issued Psychiatric Technician License No. PT 29751 to Sandra

1 Jean Williams (Respondent). The Psychiatric Technician License was in full force and effect at  
2 all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. PT-2004-1070 and will expire on  
3 August 31, 2009, unless renewed.

#### 4 JURISDICTION

5 4. Accusation No. PT-2004-1070 (the Accusation) was filed before the  
6 Director of Consumer Affairs (Director), for the Bureau, and is currently pending against  
7 Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served  
8 on Respondent on April 11, 2008. Respondent timely filed her Notice of Defense contesting the  
9 Accusation. A copy of the Accusation is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by  
10 reference.

#### 11 ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

12 5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and  
13 understands the charges and allegations in the Accusation. Respondent has also carefully read,  
14 fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and  
15 Disciplinary Order.

16 6. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the  
17 right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by  
18 counsel at her own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her;  
19 the right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf; the right to the issuance of  
20 subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to  
21 reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the  
22 California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

23 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up  
24 each and every right set forth above.

#### 25 CULPABILITY

26 8. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in the  
27 Accusation.

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1                   9.       Respondent agrees that her Psychiatric Technician License is subject to  
2 discipline and she agrees to be bound by the Director of Consumer Affairs (Director) 's  
3 imposition of discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

4                                   CIRCUMSTANCES IN MITIGATION

5                   10.       Respondent Sandra Jean Williams has not been the subject of any prior  
6 disciplinary action. She is admitting responsibility at an early stage in the proceedings, and has  
7 produced documentary evidence of her current sobriety, professional competence, and good  
8 character.

9                                   CONTINGENCY

10                   11.       This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Director of Consumer  
11 Affairs or her designee. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and  
12 the staff of the Bureau may communicate directly with the Director and staff of the Department  
13 of Consumer Affairs regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation  
14 by Respondent or her counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees  
15 that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the  
16 Director considers and acts upon it. If the Director fails to adopt this stipulation as the Decision  
17 and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect.  
18 Except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the  
19 Director shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.

20                   12.       The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated  
21 Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same  
22 force and effect as the originals.

23                   13.       In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties  
24 agree that the Director may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the  
25 following Disciplinary Order:

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## **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Psychiatric Technician License No. PT 29751, issued to Respondent, is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for three (3) years, on the following terms and conditions:

1. **Obev All Laws.** Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, including all statutes and regulations governing the license. Respondent shall submit, in writing, a full and detailed account of any and all violations of the law to the Board within five (5) days of occurrence. To ensure compliance with this term, respondent shall submit two (2) completed fingerprint cards and the applicable fingerprint processing fees to the Board within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the decision, unless the Board determines that fingerprint cards were already submitted by the Respondent as part of his/her licensure application process effective July 1, 1996. Respondent shall also submit a recent 2" x 2" photograph of himself/herself within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the decision.

2. **Compliance with Probation Program and Quarterly Report Requirements.** Respondent shall fully comply with the terms and conditions of the probation established by the Board and shall cooperate with the representatives of the Board in its monitoring and investigation of the Respondent's compliance with the Probation Program. Respondent shall submit quarterly reports, under penalty of perjury, in a form required by the Board. The reports shall certify and document compliance with all the conditions of probation.

3. **Notification of Address and Telephone Number Change(s).** Respondent shall notify the Board, in writing, within five (5) days of a change of residence or mailing address, of his/her new address and any change in his/her work and/or home telephone numbers.

4. **Notification of Residency or Practice Outside of State.** Respondent shall notify the Board, in writing, within five (5) days, if she leaves California to reside or practice in another state. Respondent shall notify the Board, in writing, within five (5) days, upon his/her return to California. The period of probation shall not run during the time Respondent is residing or practicing outside California.

1           5.     Notification to Employer(s). When currently employed or applying for  
2 employment in any capacity in any health care profession, Respondent shall notify her employer  
3 of the probationary status of her license. This notification to Respondent's current health care  
4 employer shall occur no later than the effective date of the Decision. The respondent shall notify  
5 any prospective health care employer of her probationary status with the Board prior to accepting  
6 such employment. This notification shall be by providing the employer or prospective employer  
7 with a copy of the Board's Accusation and Disciplinary Decision.

8           The Health Care Profession includes, but is not limited to: Licensed Vocational  
9 Nurse, Psychiatric Technician, Registered Nurse, Medical Assistant, Paramedic, Emergency  
10 Medical Technician, Certified Nursing Assistant, Home Health Aide, and all other ancillary  
11 technical health care positions.

12           Respondent shall cause each health care employer to submit quarterly reports to  
13 the Board. The reports shall be on a form provided by the Board, and shall include a  
14 performance evaluation and such other information as may be required by the Board.

15           Respondent shall notify the Board, in writing, within five (5) days of any change  
16 in employment status. Respondent shall notify the Board, in writing, if she is terminated from  
17 any nursing or health care related employment with a full explanation of the circumstances  
18 surrounding the termination.

19           6.     Interviews/Meetings with Board Representative(s). Respondent, during  
20 the period of probation, shall appear in person at interviews/meetings as directed by the Board, or  
21 its designated representatives.

22           7.     Employment Requirements and Limitations. During probation, the  
23 Respondent shall work in her licensed capacity in the State of California. This practice shall  
24 consist of no less than six (6) continuous months and of no less than twenty (20) hours per week.  
25 While on probation, Respondent shall not work for a nurses' registry or in any private duty  
26 position, a temporary nurse placement agency, as a faculty member in an accredited or approved  
27 school of nursing, or as an instructor in a Board approved continuing education course except as  
28 approved, in writing, by the Board. Respondent shall work only on a regularly assigned,



1 identified and predetermined work site(s) and shall not work in a float capacity except as  
2 approved, in writing, by the Board.

3           **8.     Supervision Requirements.** Respondent shall obtain prior approval from  
4 the Board, before commencing any employment, regarding the level of supervision provided to  
5 Respondent while employed as a licensed vocational nurse or psychiatric technician.

6           Respondent shall not function as a charge nurse (i.e., work in any healthcare  
7 setting as the person who oversees or directs licensed vocational nurses, psychiatric technicians,  
8 certified nursing assistants or unlicensed assistive personnel) or supervising psychiatric  
9 technician during the period of probation except as approved, in writing, by the Board.

10           **9.     Completion of Educational Course(s).** Respondent, at ~~his~~ her own  
11 expense, shall enroll and successfully complete a course(s) substantially related to the  
12 violation(s) no later than the end of the first year of probation; or the Respondent shall be  
13 suspended from practice, until she has enrolled in and has successfully completed the specified  
14 coursework.

15           The coursework shall be in addition to that required for license renewal. The  
16 Board shall notify the Respondent of the course content and number of contact hours required.  
17 Within thirty (30) days of the Board's written notification of assigned coursework, Respondent  
18 shall submit a written plan to comply with this requirement. The Board shall approve such plan  
19 prior to enrollment in any course of study. Upon successful completion of the course,  
20 Respondent shall cause the instructor to furnish proof to the Board within thirty (30) days of  
21 course completion.

22           **10.    Maintenance of Valid License.** Respondent shall, at all times while on  
23 probation, maintain an active current license with the Board, including any period during which  
24 suspension or probation is tolled. Should respondent's license, by operation of law or otherwise,  
25 expire, upon renewal or reinstatement respondent's license shall be subject to any and all terms of  
26 this probation not previously satisfied.

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1                   **11.     Cost Recovery Requirements.** Pursuant to Business and Professions  
2 Code section 125.3, Respondent shall pay to the Bureau the costs of investigation and  
3 enforcement in this matter in the amount of \$3,132.75. Respondent shall be permitted to pay  
4 these costs in a payment plan approved by the Bureau, with the payments to be completed no  
5 later than three months prior to the end of the probation term. Failure to complete payment of  
6 cost recovery within this time frame shall constitute a violation of probation which may subject  
7 Respondent's license to outright revocation.

8                   The Board may conditionally renew or reinstate, for a maximum of one year, the  
9 license of any respondent who demonstrates financial hardship. The Respondent shall enter into  
10 a formal agreement with the Board to reimburse the unpaid costs within that one year period.  
11 Except as provided above, the Board shall not renew or reinstate the license of any Respondent  
12 who has failed to pay all the costs as directed in a Decision.

13                   **12.     Violation of Probation.** If the Respondent violates the conditions of her  
14 probation, after giving the Respondent notice and an opportunity to be heard, the Bureau may set  
15 aside the stay order and impose the stayed revocation of Respondent's license. If during the  
16 period of probation, an accusation or petition to revoke has been filed against Respondent's  
17 license or the Attorney General's Office has been requested to prepare an accusation or petition  
18 to revoke probation against Respondent's license, the probationary period shall automatically be  
19 extended and shall not expire until the accusation or petition has been acted upon by the Bureau.  
20 Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's license will be fully restored.

21                   **13.     Chemical Dependency Support/Recovery Groups.** Within five (5) days  
22 of the effective date of the Decision, Respondent shall begin attendance at a chemical  
23 dependency support group (e.g. Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Nurse Support  
24 Group). Verified documentation of attendance shall be submitted by the Respondent with each  
25 quarterly report. Respondent shall continue attendance in such a group for the duration of  
26 probation.

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1                   **14.    Abstain from Controlled Substances.** Respondent shall completely  
2 abstain from the personal use or possession of controlled substances, as defined in the California  
3 Uniform Controlled Substances Act, and dangerous drugs as defined in Section 4021 and 4022 of  
4 the Business and Professions Code, except when lawfully prescribed by a licensed practitioner  
5 for a bona fide illness.

6                   **15.    Abstain from Use of Alcohol.** Respondent shall completely abstain from  
7 the use of alcoholic beverages during the period of probation.

8                   **16.    Submit Biological Fluid Samples.** Respondent shall immediately submit  
9 to biological fluid testing, at Respondent's cost, upon request by the Bureau or its designee.  
10 There will be no confidentiality in test results; positive test results will be immediately reported  
11 to the Bureau and Respondent's current employer.

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ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Steven B. Bassoff. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Psychiatric Technician License. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Director of Consumer Affairs.

DATED: 10-03-08

*Sandra J. Williams*

SANDRA JEAN WILLIAMS  
Respondent

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Sandra Jean Williams the terms and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I approve its form and content.

DATED: 10/3/08

*Steven B. Bassoff*  
STEVEN B. BASSOFF  
Attorney for Respondent

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1 ENDORSEMENT

2 The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order are hereby  
3 respectfully submitted for consideration by the Director of Consumer Affairs.

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5 DATED: October 6, 2008

6 EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General  
7 of the State of California

8 KAREN B. CHAPPELLE  
9 Supervising Deputy Attorney General

10   
11 BRIAN G. WALSH  
12 Deputy Attorney General

13 Attorneys for Complainant

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15 DOJ Matter ID: LA2007601406  
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**Exhibit A**  
**Accusation No. PT-2004-1070**

APR 11 2008

Board of Vocational Nursing  
and Psychiatric Technicians

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General  
of the State of California  
GREGORY J. SALUTE  
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Attorneys for Complainant

BEFORE THE  
BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING AND PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. PT-2004-1070

SANDRA JEAN WATKINS  
aka SANDRA JEAN WILLIAMS  
26949 Stratford Street  
Highland, CA 92346

**ACCUSATION**

Psychiatric Technician License No. PT 29751

Respondent.

Complainant alleges:

**PARTIES**

1. Teresa Bello-Jones, J.D., M.S.N., R.N. (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians, Department of Consumer Affairs (Board).
2. On or about May 2, 1996, the Board issued Psychiatric Technician License No. PT 29751 to Sandra Jean Watkins a.k.a. Sandra Jean Williams (Respondent). The Psychiatric Technician License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on August 31, 2009, unless renewed.

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## JURISDICTION

3. This Accusation is brought before the Board, under the authority of the following laws. All Section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.

## REGULATORY SECTIONS

4. Section 118, subdivision (b), provides, in relevant part, that the expiration of a license shall not deprive the Board jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary action during the period within which the license may be renewed, restored, reissued or reinstated. Under Section 4545, the Board may renew an expired license at any time within four years after the expiration.

5. Section 125.3 provides, in relevant part, that a Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licensee found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

6. Section 4520 provides, in relevant part, that the Board may discipline any licensed psychiatric technician for any reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with section 4520) of the Psychiatric Technicians Law (Code § 4500, et. seq.).

7. Section 4521 states:

The board may suspend or revoke a license issued under this chapter [the Psychiatric Technicians Law (Code § 4500, et seq.)] for any of the following reasons:

(a) Unprofessional conduct, which includes but is not limited to any of the following:

(4) Obtain or possess in violation of law, or prescribe, or except as directed by a licensed physician and surgeon, dentist, or podiatrist administer to himself or herself or furnish or administer to another, any controlled substance as defined in Division 10 (commencing with Section 11000) of the Health and Safety Code or any dangerous drug as defined in Section 4022.

(5) Use any controlled substance as defined in Division 10 (commencing with Section 11000) of the Health and Safety Code, or any dangerous drug as defined in Section 4022, or



1 alcoholic beverages, to an extent or in a manner dangerous or  
2 injurious to himself or herself, any other person, or the public or to  
3 the extent that the use impairs his or her ability to conduct with  
4 safety to the public the practice authorized by his or her license.

5 (d) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or  
6 assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision or  
7 terms of this chapter.

### 8 REGULATORY SECTIONS

9 8. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 2576.6 states:

10 (a) A licensed psychiatric technician shall safeguard patients'/clients'  
11 health and safety by actions which include but are not limited to the following:

12 (1) Reporting to the Board unprofessional conduct as  
13 defined in Section 4521(a) of the Business and Professions Code;

14 (b) A licensed psychiatric technician shall adhere to standards of the  
15 profession and shall incorporate ethical and behavioral standards of professional  
16 practice which include but are not limited to the following:

17 (4) Abstaining from chemical/substance abuse.

18 (c) A violation of this section constitutes unprofessional conduct for  
19 purposes of initiating disciplinary action.

### 20 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE / DANGEROUS DRUG

21 9. Methamphetamine is a Schedule II controlled substance as designated by  
22 Health and Safety Code section 11055, subdivision (d)(2), and is categorized as a dangerous drug  
23 pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.

### 24 FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

#### 25 (Unlawful Possession of Controlled Substances)

26 10. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4521,  
27 subdivision (a)(4) as a result of Respondent's unlawful possession of methamphetamine on  
28 January 30, 2004. During the service of a search warrant on January 30, 2004, by the San

1 Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Officer G. Alfaro discovered two small bags of  
2 methamphetamine on Respondent's person. While searching Respondent's bedroom, Officer  
3 Thuilliez discovered two glass pipes with white residue, which tested positive for  
4 methamphetamine. Respondent admitted to Officer Alfaro that the methamphetamine was hers,  
5 and further admitted that she used about a quarter of a gram per day.

## 6 SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

### 7 **(Dangerous Use of Controlled Substances)**

8 11. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4521,  
9 subdivision (a)(5), as a result of Respondent's dangerous use of methamphetamine, a controlled  
10 substance and a dangerous drug, as set forth above in paragraph 10.

## 11 THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

### 12 **(Unprofessional Conduct / Failure to Report Unprofessional Conduct)**

13 12. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4521,  
14 subdivision (a), and California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 2576.6, subdivisions (a)(1)  
15 and (c), for failing to report unprofessional conduct. Specifically, Respondent failed in her duty  
16 to report her daily use of methamphetamine, which constituted unprofessional conduct, as set  
17 forth above in paragraph 10. Respondent further failed in her duty to report unprofessional  
18 conduct when she failed to respond to the Board's July 31, 2006 certified letter requesting a  
19 response to this allegation against her license.

## 20 FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

### 21 **(Unprofessional Conduct / Failure to Abstain from Substance Abuse)**

22 13. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4521,  
23 subdivision (a), and California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 2576.6, subdivisions (b)(4)  
24 and (c), because Respondent failed to abstain from substance abuse by using a quarter-gram of  
25 methamphetamine daily, as set forth above in paragraph 11.

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1 FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

2 (Violation Provisions of the Psychiatric Technicians Law)

3 14. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4521,  
4 subdivision (d), for violating numerous terms of the Psychiatric Technicians Law (Code section  
5 4500 et seq.), as set forth above in paragraphs 10 through 13.

6 PRAYER

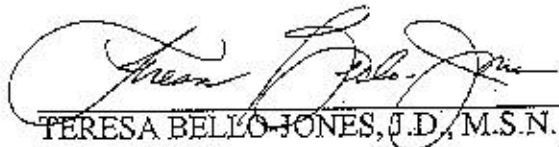
7 WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein  
8 alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric  
9 Technicians issue a decision:

10 1. Revoking or suspending Psychiatric Technician License No. PT 29751,  
11 issued to Respondent;

12 2. Ordering Respondent to pay the Board of Vocational Nursing and  
13 Psychiatric Technicians the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case,  
14 pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3; and

15 3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

16  
17 DATED: April 11, 2008

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20 TERESA BELLO-JONES, J.D., M.S.N., R.N.

21 Executive Officer

22 Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians

23 Department of Consumer Affairs

24 State of California

25 Complainant